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The Signal



Thursday, December 18, 2003

Published for the Department of Defense and the Fort Gordon community

Vol. 23, No. 50

News UPDATE

Trash pickup

Holiday trash collection for all the housing areas is Dec. 24 and 31; bulk trash will be picked up Dec. 17 and Jan. 7. Christmas trees will be picked up Jan. 5.

For information on trash collection, call Rodney Richardson at 791-3483. For information regarding tree pick up, call Sgt. Maj. Steven Goulet at 791-6483.

EWC gift wrap

The Fort Gordon Enlisted Wives Club's Annual Christmas Scholarship Gift Wrap is currently in operation until **Wednesday** in front of the Post Exchange. This is EWC's only major fundraiser. For information call Ginny Terry at 790-2086 or Rosemary Marshall at 791-2675.

Christmas Eve service

There is a post-wide Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7 p.m. **Wednesday** at Bicentennial Chapel, Building 28414, Brainard Avenue. Call 791-3874.

Extended hours

The Fort Gordon commissary has extended holiday hours: **Saturday** 9 a.m.-8 p.m., **Sunday** 10 a.m.-7 p.m., **Monday-Tuesday** 9 a.m.-8 p.m., **Wednesday** 9 a.m.-3 p.m., **Thursday** closed.

The Post Exchange has extended hours starting Monday:

Today, Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-10 p.m., **Sunday**, 10 a.m.-9 p.m., **Monday and Tuesday**, 9 a.m.-10 p.m., and **Wednesday**, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Winter camps

Youth services offers a School Age Winter Camp for ages 6-11, and a Teen Winter Camp for ages 11-14, **Dec. 22-Jan. 2**, at Youth Services, Building 45410.

Hours for the School Age camp are 5:15 a.m.-6 p.m., Teen Camp hours are 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m. For registration information, call 791-6500 or go to www.fortgordon.com.

CPAC training

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center is hosting an Employee and Labor Relations Seminar for supervisors of Department of Army civilian personnel **Jan. 20-22**.

The training will be held at the Courtyard from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. each day. Training is funded by Fort Gordon for Fort Gordon employees.

Civilian and military leaders are eligible to attend. Call Carla Baucom at 791-3956 or e-mail baucomc@gordon.army.mil to sign up. Registration required, classes filled on a first-come basis.

Post utility privatization begins here

Denise Allen
Signal staff

Crews from Atlanta Gas Light Co. began replacing gas lines last week on Fort Gordon. It is the first of several initiatives to privatize utilities on post.

A mandate from the Department of the Army requires all installations to have privatized utilities by Sept. 30, 2005; however, Fort Gordon should meet that deadline by a year, according to Glenn Stubblefield, Fort Gordon's energy manager.

Contracts for gas, water, electricity and waste water treatment will all be privatized by Oct. 1, 2004, he said.

The reason the Army is joining forces with the private sector is simple.

"Ultimately the Army doesn't do well maintaining systems," said Stubblefield. Letting commercial industry do what they do best leaves the military with its mind focused on the mission rather than water lines or sewer treatment.

Natural gas is the first utility to be privatized.

Atlanta Gas Light Co. is replacing the entire gas infrastructure, he said.

"We know we have some

aging systems," he said.

The new systems will bring Fort Gordon's gas line infrastructure up to the latest industry codes. Gas service will be routed to some areas on post that currently do not have it.

Atlanta Gas Light will be responsible for upkeep of the lines once they are in place.

"Typically privatization does not involve a commodity," he said. "It's the pieces and parts of the system."

Negotiations with electric companies and those who provide water and waste water treatment are underway or soon to be. Water and sewerage are considered two separate services.

Stubblefield said the move to privatization might affect some positions at Fort Gordon, but he thinks employees will only "change name tags."

"Existing employees know the systems and how to maintain them. They would be of some benefit," he said.

With the privatization efforts and new infrastructure, Stubblefield said "Fort Gordon will be in a great position in terms of a utility standpoint to take in new missions."



Photo by Pvt. Armando Monroig

Ho-ho-holidays

Santa and Mrs. Claus were on hand Friday to help Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commander, celebrate the post Christmas tree lighting at Freedom Park.

Soldiers serve more than just country

Denise Allen
Signal staff

For Soldiers, serving their country isn't limited to the battlefield.

Many at Fort Gordon serve at area schools through the Partners in Education program.

"They help with classroom education tutoring and mentoring," said Stacie Hill-Good, who works as the liaison between the schools and Army personnel at Fort Gordon.

Sometimes, the projects are a one-time effort, while others are ongoing.

Members of the 447th Signal Battalion were recently honored by the Columbia County School system for their partnership.

"We starting consolidating our volunteer efforts," said Capt. Joe Harrison of Company A.

Harrison said they discovered there were many people volunteering already in their children's schools.

Over the past few months, the 447th has helped schools by volunteering at carnivals, clearing nature trails and helping with fundraisers.

Across post, permanent party members as well as students volunteer in the schools.

Strong partnerships have been forged with schools in Richmond County as well said Hill-Good.

The 442nd Signal Battalion's Company A has adopted Barton Chapel Elementary School.

Freedom Park, Jamestown and Tobacco Road Elementary Schools, Morgan Road, Spirit Creek and Glenn Hills Middle Schools have also seen a lot of military interaction, she said, but it

doesn't stop there.

"Wherever we have a military child, we feel we need to support," she said.

Hill-Good is the installation's first school liaison officer, and she's been in the position for about a year and a half.

"Stacie would be the first point of contact" when building a relationship with a school, said Pat Buchholz, the installation's strategic management officer. "Stacie has the responsibility to tell people at the Department of the Army the number of hours they volunteer. We want to tell the community the Soldiers are doing good things."

Harrison said Soldiers say they en-

joy their volunteer service and plan to do even more things in the future because of the relationship they've built.

"The Soldier gets out of it a sense of accomplishment," he said. "He gets to feel like he's able to impact something, able to impact education. A good number of them get to spend more time with their families" because they are volunteering at their children's schools.

At the 447th Co. A, Soldiers are allowed one day a month to volunteer, and once a year, they receive an entire week off that is not counted against their leave to go and volunteer.

For information about Partners in Education, call Hill-Good at 791-7270.



Courtesy photo

Soldiers volunteer for numerous activities at a variety of area schools, such as reading to students at Freedom Park Elementary School.

Signal Corps reunites at Symposium

Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo
93rd Signal Brigade

More than 300 Signal Corps Soldiers attended the Signal Corps Regimental Reunion at the Gordon Club Dec. 4.

Signal officers and NCOs throughout the Army used the evening to reminisce and socialize with past acquaintances.

"You spend so much time chewing the dirt with these people, then you have to part ways - this (reunion) keeps the bonds of camaraderie open," said Sgt. 1st Class James Quentin, 121st Signal Battalion, Kitzingen, Germany.

Spotting his previous company commander, Quentin made his way across the crowded room to say hello. "This was one of my platoon sergeants in my old company," said Capt. Neil Khatod, Directorate of Combat Developments here. "It's a thrill to see some people that I haven't seen in years."

The event was especially profound given the extensive military deployment requirements.

"It's a surprise seeing the growth and maturity of some of the Soldiers you once worked with," said 1st Sgt. Christopher Cousins, 252nd Signal Company. "It feels good that they still remember you with all of the things currently going on in the Army."

full page ad

Bryan speaks of changes in Regiment, need to manage bandwidth, money

Sgt. Ryan Matson
Military editor

What type of person does it take to be the Director of Signal Corps Transformation for the Department of the Army?

Well, it looks like a job for...Cyberman!

Maj. Gen. Dave Bryan, also known as Cyberman for the character he created and dressed up as at last year's Signal Symposium, has been assigned the task as the Director of Signal Corps Transformation for the Department of the Army.

In a speech that lasted about an hour, Bryan addressed a full house at Alexander Hall Dec. 3 on such issues as changes for the Regiment, supporting nonlinear operations in a noncontiguous environment, the success of Blue Force tracking in Operation Iraqi Freedom, ensuring all nodes can support a command and control element, and managing bandwidth.

"I'm here in a new capacity," Bryan explained.

"I am still the commander of Joint Task Force, Computer Network Operations, but I have accepted the call, if you will, from Lt. Gen. Boutelle to commit not only my experience and operational background, but my heart to a final objective. That is to establish a plan that will re-equip the Army with a whole new wave of advanced communications and information systems technologies, and at the same time reorganize the Regiment to ensure our relevance in enabling the Army to take advantage of all that massive capability."

A lot of this change will be paced by money, Bryan said.

"We must reduce the pacing factor

of change to money," Bryan said. "Money is the fuel that's going to run this engine of change for us. We know the technology, and we know that industry can provide all the technology we need; it always has. It's a matter of figuring out which technology we need and which we can afford and in what sequence."

By managing the communications network, Bryan said a lot of the bandwidth problem can be alleviated.

"Everybody says they want more bandwidth," Bryan said. "Did you know the average satellite pipe is only subscribed 17 percent of the time? That's disgraceful. We're paying a lot of money for a lot of bandwidth, and frankly spilling most of it on the ground as white noise."

Bryan was introduced by Spc. Kevin Gropp, a combat cameraman injured while documenting operations of his unit, the 101st Airborne Division, near An Najaf.

"Maj. Gen. Bryan is a paratrooper, a jumpmaster, a pathfinder, a Ranger, and I have been told, an all around great guy," Gropp, himself a Purple Heart, Army Commendation for Valor Medal and Bronze Star Medal recipient, said in his introduction of the general.

Bryan's speech was full of his trademark sense of humor.

He said he understood the objectives of Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker from sharing a similar background as a fellow lightfighter.

"I'm a lightfighter myself, a (Fort) Bragg guy," Bryan said. "I spent my time with tank units and yes, I learned how to chew Beechnut and spit out of a hatch without getting it all over myself or the tank, and that is an essential skill, by the way."

When illustrating a point on how the

Regiment needs to speak in one voice to avoid mistakes in communication that totally change a message's meaning, Bryan read from the notes of kids in a fifth and sixth grade history class from their lessons.

"You'll get an idea that they were listening, but it didn't quite get into the filters quite right," Bryan said. Listen to some of these: Socrates was a famous old Greek teacher who went around giving people advice. They killed him for it. Apparently he died from an overdose of wedlock."

"Julius extinguished himself on the battlefields of Gaul. The Ides of March murdered him because they thought he wanted to be king. Dying, he gasped out, 'Same to you, Brutus!'"

"Queen Elizabeth was the virgin queen. As a queen she was a real success. When she exposed herself to her troops in battle, they all shouted, 'Hoorah!' and that was the end of the fighting for awhile."

And of course, what Symposium visit by Bryan would be complete without a visit from his infamous alter-ego,

Cyberman?

Although Bryan didn't don the cybersuit throughout his speech as he did last year, this year his speech ended with an urgent phone call.

Bryan pretended to answer his cell phone to take a phone call from the president, asking him if he was once again available to save the universe.

While Bryan exited the stage a video of Cyberman flying to rescue the world while Soldiers looked up from motorpools and other areas to see the action played on the screen behind him.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo

Training up

Maj. Gen. James C. Hylton (left), U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Army Signal Command, chaired a semi-annual training brief at the 93rd Signal Brigade Theater Network Operations Center Dec. 4, with Col. Nathaniel Smith (second from left), 93rd Sig. Bde., brigade commander, Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Thomas, 93rd Sig. Bde., brigade command sergeant major and the 93rd Sig. bde. command staff and representatives from Fort Huachuca, Ariz., viewing by video teleconferencing. The SATB addressed current and future regimental restructuring issues.

442nd Soldiers educate local students

Capt. Daphne Austin
442nd Signal Battalion

Twelve Soldiers from Headquarters and Company A, 442nd Signal Battalion, participated in American Education Week events at Barton Chapel Elementary School on Nov. 20.

The Soldiers established six stations outside the school that the students rotated through during the day. The stations

consisted of six vehicles and shelters with two Single Channel Ground Airborne Radio System standalone radio points that allowed the students to communicate with their friends on the distant end. The six assemblages included a Small Extension Node, Radio Access Unit, a Line of Sight V(1) a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, a Troop Carrier, and a

2.5 ton truck.

Many of the students had never come in contact with a Soldier before, so they used this event to get to know the Army Soldier. Most of the students had never been near or inside a military vehicle, either, and expressed excitement about the opportunity to explore the strange vehicles.

Soldiers also installed local

phone service with the use of the Small Extension Node shelter, introducing students to a second means of Army communications by placing a phone call to their friends from a Digital Nonsecure Voice Terminal.

More than 500 students at the school visited the American Education Week display.

(Austin is commander of Headquarters and Company A.)



Photo courtesy 442nd Signal Battalion

Spcs. Ronald Hughes (left) and Richard Hernandez explain a Small Extension Node to students at Barton Chapel Elementary School. A dozen Soldiers from Company A, 442nd Signal Battalion went to the school Nov. 20 as part of American Education Week.

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Christmas House toy drive

Helping add Christmas holiday cheer since 1966

Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo
93rd Signal Brigade

Thanks to Santa's "elves" at the Fort Gordon Christmas House, about 272 families with 595 children will get a visit from ol' Saint Nick this holiday season.

Several months of fundraising and toy drives culminated as volunteers distributed more than 1,692 toys to Fort Gordon servicers and family members, Dec. 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Christmas House's temporary location, Building #28320.

"This is the 37th year of the Christmas House program which originally started as a teddy bear drive by nurses from the Eisenhower Army Medical Center," said Lynn Harshman, Army Community Service, 2003 Christmas House program director. "The program has evolved over the decades into a post-wide event that depends almost entirely on donations from on and off post organizations, merchants, individuals and groups of people."

Christmas House volunteers were busy since August contacting unit commanders throughout the post, radio stations within the community, and local organizations to raise money to purchase three toys per child, Harshman said.

The effort was well received by the servicers who qualified for the Christmas subsidy.

"This program is absolutely fantastic," said Army Pvt. Joe Lewis De La Rosa, E Co. 447th Signal Battalion, 15th Signal Brigade, network switching systems student.

With three children and a wife relocating from Phoenix, Ariz. to Augusta, Ga., he said the toys will certainly cheer up the holidays, especially since he's on a private's pay-salary.

"The commissary and commissary vendors are absolutely super," Harshman said. "They held a golf tournament and the proceeds went to the Christmas House."

This year qualified servicers with three children or less will also receive a \$50 commissary food voucher, and families with four or more children will receive a \$100 commissary food voucher, Harshman said.

"Individual vendors have also donated additional com-

missary gift certificates for the servicers," she said.

"This program really helps raise the morale during the season," said Army Staff Sgt. Tony Jones, A Co., 447th Sig. Bn., network switching systems instructor. "My platoon sergeant recommended that I apply since I have four children - with four children Christmas gets really expensive."

The program has an extensive application process. Each application is reviewed on a case-by-case basis by a program committee. The committee reviews each applicant's monthly income versus monthly expenses, and applicants are categorized either as a priority or secondary by the amount of funds they have left over, said Harshman.

Eventually, tough decisions as to who does and who does not qualify have to be made. How much revenue and how many gifts generated by donations determines how many applicants are accepted, said Harshman.

"This program is fueled by the energy and enthusiasm of the volunteers on so many different levels," said Harshman.

Several thousand people volunteered this year but only 3,400 were registered. Twelve were recognized as outstanding contributors and Brig. Gen. Janet Hicks, Fort Gordon and the U.S. Army Signal Center, commanding

general, recognized one, Rae Lynne Guthrie, as the Fort Gordon Volunteer of the Year. The Christmas House's permanent office will be located at the Community Life Center, Building 33512 on Rice Lane.



Photo by Pvt. Armando Monroig

Stacey Gibson, Family Readiness Group leader for the 93rd Signal Brigade and volunteer at the Christmas House, stocks one of the many donated toys on shelves in this year's Christmas House. The Christmas House toy drive this year netted nearly 1,700 toys for good girls and boys.

AAFES adds spirit

Donations to AAFES "Santa's Gifts to you from the Homefront" program near the quarter million mark

DALLAS - Generous corporate donations and an outpouring of support from individual Americans to the Army & Air Force Exchange Service *Santa's Gifts to you from the Homefront* program continue to benefit Soldiers deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"AAFES has just received word that a generous donation of \$30,000 has pushed the total donations to the program over the \$240,000 mark," said Bob Carreras, AAFES vice president.

"This donation will be distributed via gift certificates directly to deployed Soldiers and Airmen through the Air Force Aid Society, Fisher House and the American Red Cross," he said.

As of Dec. 11, nearly 13,000 certificates, valued at \$247,965, have been disbursed through the program.

"With the holiday season in full gear, it is our sincere hope that every American will take a moment to consider the needs of our heroes who will be spending the holidays in isolated and austere locations throughout the world," said Lt. Col. Debra Pressley, AAFES communication's chief.

"Anyone can make a contribution to these deployed troops' quality of life through the *Santa's Gifts to you from the Homefront* program."

Because the gift certificates can be used for merchandise already stocked at AAFES locations in OIF/OEF, the gifts are a safe alternative to traditional CARE packages. Furthermore, Soldiers are sure to get exactly what they need with the certificates that can be applied to a wide range of products. Reports from Iraq indicate that the certificates that have been distributed are being used for everything from comfort items such as snacks and beverages, to phone cards for those all-important calls home.

Those wishing to send a "Santa's Gift" can go to aafes.com or call (877)770-4438 to purchase gift certificates in \$10 or \$20 denominations. From there, the gift is sent to an individual servicemember (designated by the purchaser) or distributed to "any servicemember" through organizations such as the American Red Cross, Air Force Aid Society or Fisher House.

Gift certificates can be redeemed at any AAFES facility including OIF/OEF locations. AAFES operates some 51 stores throughout OIF/OEF (30 in Iraq), serving troops and lifting morale of those soldiering in isolated conditions.

(From an AAFES press release.)

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Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

Holiday food safety guide for the party animal

Herb Greene
Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Va. — Of all the wonderful things you plan to do during the holidays, I'll bet that being seriously ill with food poisoning is definitely not one of them. Yet, this holiday season, many will have their holidays ruined because they failed to take some common-sense eating and drinking precautions at parties and get-togethers.

As you have guessed by now, this is a food safety story, but it is not about how to cook a turkey or how long to keep tofu leftovers. It is about how to protect yourself from food-borne illness as you hit the party circuit. Here are some food safety tips to keep you, the party animal, rocking:

WASH YOUR HANDS

The first and best thing you can do to protect yourself is to just wash your hands. No, you are not a dirty person, but you will come into contact with objects that less sanitary folks than you have touched. Most communicable illnesses invade your body by way of your hands.

You either touch an ill person or touch something they have handled and then transfer those harmful bacteria into your body when your fingers touch your mouth or nose.

It's all down hill from there as the harmful bacteria that have been transferred to your body have a field day challenging your immune system.

But what if food is being served where you can't wash your hands? One possible solution might be to use a hand sanitizing lotion or antibacterial wipe to clean your hands. It's that easy.

EAT EARLY

During the average four hours of a holiday party, bacteria can go from a few lonely souls to virtually gazillions. "If your host has placed all the party food out on the table at the beginning and it just sits there at room temperature, be sure to eat early," says Chris Wicker, a health and sanitation specialist with the Defense Commissary Agency. "The longer food sits out unrefrigerated, the less safe it is to eat."

AVOID PEOPLE WITH INCONSIDERATE EATING HABITS

The "double dipper" is the worst of this lot. This is the person who takes a chip, piece of celery, caul-

iflower, carrot, or other similar item and scoops it into the dip, takes a bite, then returns the half-eaten, germ-contaminated portion back into the bowl for a second dip. The entire bowl of dip now becomes a potential illness waiting to happen. And what if the double dipper has a cold or bad cough?

Another shining example of "inconsiderate people" would be the person who drops the serving spoon onto the floor and then quickly replaces the spoon back into the serving dish when no one is looking. If you know of such people, protect yourself by not following behind them in the food line.

WATCH FOR DANGEROUS GRILLING TECHNIQUES AND IMPROPER FOOD HANDLING TECHNIQUES

Before you eat any meat your host is grilling on the barbecue, observe how the meat is handled. Do not eat cooked meat that has been grilled and then placed back on the same platter, dish or container used to hold raw meat.

tion of your food by the bacteria present on the food handlers' hands, not to keep their hands clean."

AVOID CERTAIN HIGH-RISK FOODS

Avoid food and beverages made with raw eggs like nonpasteurized eggnog. They are breeding grounds for bacteria. Politely decline to eat any wild game caught and cooked by your host. There is a lot that can go wrong by eating the trophies of the mighty hunter, but we won't go there in this story.

KNOW WHO YOUR TURKEY WRANGLER IS

First, there is no way you are going to get through the holiday party season without being offered turkey. Americans love this bird, but understandably the feeling is not mutual. During the holidays, we will consume nearly 70 million turkeys and during the year, each of us will eat nearly 18 pounds of this delicious bird. The problem with turkey meat is the same problem common to all poultry: It can go bad quickly if it is not properly refrigerated.

"If you leave the turkey at room temperature on the dinner or buffet table longer than two hours, there is a chance the small numbers of bacteria will grow into millions," says Eleanor Schlenker of Virginia Cooperative Extension at Virginia Tech. "If you want the leftovers to be safe when you serve them the next day, you need to get them into the refrigerator within two hours."

COMMON SENSE RULES

You can't go wrong applying common sense to your party eating. If the food looks old and discolored, don't eat it. If you arrive late to the party, just smile, talk and consume only items you know to be safe, like prepackaged individual servings of candy and drinks that you either see made or open yourself. Even then, check the expiration dates on the packages just to be sure.

Also, watch for the host that holds a glass with bare hands and scoops it into the ice chest. That ice has most likely been contaminated. Even worse would be the person who takes the glass he or she has drunk from and uses it to scoop up ice.

Finally for the holiday party season, choose conservative and safe over bold and stupid by declining to eat what a CSI forensics team cannot identify.

Be sane; eat safe; enjoy! Happy Holidays!



Holiday time to exercise safety

The holiday season is here and I know most of you are looking forward to celebrating Christmas and the New Year with family and friends. We want to make sure these holidays are a time of much happiness and that the joy associated with them is not tainted by tragedy brought on by unfortunate circumstances.

The increased presence of holiday travelers and wintry road conditions make this time of year dangerous. Privately owned vehicle accidents are responsible for a majority of Army fatalities. Major contributing factors include excessive speed, fatigue, alcohol, driver inexperience, failure to use seat belts, and the attitude that "it won't happen to me."

Drive to stay alive because it can happen to you. Slow down, wear your seatbelts, follow the rules of the road, and allow yourself plenty of time to reach your destination. Do not drive if you're fatigued or under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Both drivers and pedestri-

ans need to be alert to fast-changing weather conditions, reduced daylight hours, and unpredictable actions of other drivers. Be aware of other holiday recreation and home hazards, and please take precautions.

Commanders and leaders will integrate safety awareness into all phases of Exodus including safety briefings and POV inspections before the holidays. The traffic safety film, "Every Drive Counts," is shown daily at 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Channel 5 of Fort Gordon's closed circuit TV. Additional tips may be found at <http://safety.army.mil/main.html>.

I truly appreciate all that you do for our Army and nation. You represent all that is good about America. I wish you the merriest of holidays, safe and accident free.

Janet A. Hicks
JANET A. HICKS
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

Gifts come in more than foil-wrapped packages

Pvt. Armando Monroig
Signal Staff

As I walked into the Christmas House located on Lane Avenue, I initially felt a bit of trepidation.

I didn't know how to feel actually. On one hand I was a bit embarrassed about having to go somewhere and pick up toys for my three-year-old son for Christmas because I couldn't afford to get him some on my own.

I've never had to do that before. I have never had problems financially. Not to this extent anyway. So, when my co-workers first mentioned to me that it was something I could apply for, I was hesitant.

But then I gave it some more thought.

I began to realize, it is not something to be ashamed or embarrassed about. Christmas House is a program organized to ensure a traditional holiday celebration for those military families unable to provide their own.

It is a wonderful gesture which began in 1966 by a group of nurses from Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center for that very reason.

As a private with less than one year in the Army, I can provide very little for my son who lives far away with his mother in Illinois. The one thing I wanted to do was to be able to send him something for Christmas, so that he knows that I still care about him and haven't forgotten about him.

And thanks to this program and all the good folks involved in putting it together, I was able to do what I wanted and send my son some gifts. The ladies who volunteered their time and energy were pleasant and helpful to me when I walked in the door. They made me feel comfortable in what otherwise would have been an awkward situation for me.

That's what I think is so special about Christmas House. It's a continuing tradition on post to try to make Soldiers and their loved ones' holidays a little bit brighter.

I just recently wrapped those gifts I picked out from Christmas House and mailed them to my son. It means so much to me to know that Christmas morning when he opens his gifts he will be opening a few from me. I can only imagine the look on his little face when he does so and I am quite certain it will mean a lot to him too.

Were it not for Christmas House and the gracious individuals who gave of their time and energy to make this happen, my little boy would not get anything from me this holiday season.

Thank you Christmas House and to everyone who helped me, and the many other recipients, with your generosity.

One day, I hope to be able to return the favor and give someone the same special Christmas gift the way this one was given to me: with kindness and from the heart.



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Staff Writers: Pvt. Armando Monroig and Denise Allen
Editorial Office: Fort Gordon Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 29801 Room 209, 520 Chamberlain Ave.,

Fort Gordon, Ga. 30905-5735
Civilian Printer: Citizen Newspapers
Publisher: Roy F. Chalker Jr.
General Manager: Bonnie K. Taylor
Sales Representative: Faye Watkins and Deborah Kitchens

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The contracting officer serves as liaison between the civilian printer

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Distribution on post is free, and circulation is 18,500 per week.

212 ways to be a Soldier

Note: This is the 48th MOS featured in the series describing all 212 Army careers.

A day in the life of... A 91P (radiology technician)

Sgt. Ryan Matson
Military Editor



Photo by Sgt. Ryan Matson

Spc. Loy Garcia, a 91P, or radiology technician, holds a line that is going through a patient's vein as part of an interventional radiology process.

To Spc. Loy Garcia, his job as a 91P (radiology technician), is rather straightforward.

"It's not a hard MOS," Garcia said.

"We take pictures of bones. It's plain and simple."

But the more Garcia described his job, the clearer it became that it is a little more involved than he was letting on.

"A lot of people think X-rays are just of bones, but we can look at more than just bones," Loy said.

"I mean, using a CAT scan we can inject dye and follow it through veins, we can look at kidney stones if they're in there, we can do all sorts of things."

"We do Emergency Room cases, we do regular routine cases, like if people with arthritis come in here, we do X-rays of their hands to see how bad their arthritis is, we do bone scans, we do fluoroscopy (fluoroscopy)."

In addition to the variety of X-rays and other scanning images 91Ps can perform, the MOS also includes several modalities, Garcia explained.

"X-ray branches off into different modalities," he said. "There's CAT scans, there's mammography, there's ultrasound, there's angio, nuclear medicine, interventional radiology."

Of these various areas of specialty in the 91P MOS and radiology field, Garcia said his duties at Eisenhower Army Medical Center now are performing CT scans and interventional radiology.

"In a CT scan, we scan the entire body, but we do it in slices," Garcia said.

"Instead of seeing the picture from the front or the back, we're taking slices through the body so we can see the organs

as we go down. You see everything, bones and organs because the radiation is going all around in a circular motion."

Interventional medicine usually involves studying vascular conditions, Garcia explained.

"We can put lines in arteries and veins," he said. "These are like a regular IV, but they can stay in for months at a time, whereas a regular IV can only stay in for three or four days."

He said 91Ps can monitor the lines and use fluoroscopy to see where the line is going as well as inject contrast to make sure the line is in the correct vein or artery.

Garcia said one of the things he enjoys about this MOS is the hands-on aspect.

"Doing interventional is more hands-on," he said. "You're assisting a doctor. I get more out of it because it seems like you're doing more to help a patient whereas with an X-ray you just take a picture and then it goes off to a doctor."

Garcia, who enlisted as a 91P, has been in the Army three years and has just completed his first year at Fort Gordon.

Following basic training, the advanced individual training, or training in which a Soldier learns his/her MOS, lasts about a year, Garcia said. He said that is because AIT is divided into a five-month course to learn the skills of a radiology technician, and a one month basic medical course, both of which are conducted at Fort Sam Houston in Texas. Garcia said Fort Sam Houston is the AIT site for many of the 91 series, or medical MOS fields.

In AIT, Soldiers learn a variety of topics such as basic medical anatomy, science, physics and things like positioning, or how a technician places a broken bone on the X-ray table to get the best possible shot of the injury.

Following the completion of AIT, Garcia said a 91P must complete an additional six months of on the job training at an Army hospital. There are about 20 sites where a Soldier can do this, including Fort Gordon, he said.

The radiology department here may shoot anywhere between 12 to 175 X-rays in a given day, Garcia said. He said he cannot shoot an X-ray without a doctor's order, however.

Garcia said he selected the 91P MOS because he wanted to chose a field in which he knew he would be able to find employment in the civilian sector when his time in the military came to an end.

"In the civilian world, there's a shortage in this field, just like nurses or pretty much anything in the medical field," Garcia said.

Because of this demand for X-ray technicians, someone doing the job of a 91P can make \$20 to \$30 an hour in the civilian sector.

Before one can make this kind of money, however, Garcia explained they must be registered as a certified radiology technician.

"If I studied I know I could get the registry," he said. "Some states require that you become registered in their state to become an X-ray tech, or there's a national registry that

as long as you have it, some states will allow you to work."

To obtain his registry, Garcia said he would get paperwork to take a test for the national registry from his AIT.

"If I pass I pass, if not I have two more chances," he said.

In the military, Garcia is able to perform his job and get full experience without being registered. Still, he said he has purchased his books and getting registered in CT scans and interventional medicine is one of his goals.

"It's a good thing to have," he admitted.

If someone were interested in becoming, or enlisting as a 91P, Garcia said that person must have an interest in providing the best care possible for a patient.

"You'd have to be willing to deal with patients," he said. "Patient care is our main objective."

The 91P MOS is a five to six year enlistment, meaning Garcia will have plenty of time to learn about some of the different modalities in the field.

"It's a great MOS," he said. "I enjoy it and have no regrets."

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full page ad

Blood drive nets 300 donors

Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo
93rd Signal Brigade

The 93rd Signal Brigade, in support of the Fort Gordon Armed Service Blood Program, organized a blood donor drive at Gym 3 in an effort to increase the blood reserves for servicemembers worldwide.

Although many of the Soldiers said they were afraid of needles, they agreed that blood drives are vital for servicemembers in harm's way.

"I am so scared of needles," said Spc. Desiree Myers, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 67th Signal Battalion, orderly room clerk. "But I have friends deployed to Iraq now so it is the right thing to donate blood, because sometime in the future someone may need it."

"I've been giving blood since high school," said Maj. Sonny Deyampart, 93rd Sig. Bde. chemical operations OIC. "I never enjoy seeing needles stick out of my arm, but this is something that I feel is very important to do - it helps save lives."

The 7217th Medical Service/Support Unit's 20-member team has been traveling across the East Coast processing blood donations from servicemembers since Jan. 17, said Master Sgt. Richard Laxson, ASBP blood donor task force NCOIC.

The 7217th MSU Soldiers said they enjoy their mission.

"Aside from being away from my family, this is a great work atmosphere and it is a vital part to play, knowing the situation with our Soldiers being overseas," said Sgt. Collin Green, 7217th MSU, medical laboratory technician.

The 7217th MSU manned the eight stations necessary to safely process the blood donations.

A representative from the Armed Service Blood Program was on hand to emphasize the blood drive's main goal.

"The average trauma patient requires about 40 pints of blood," said Erin Hamblin, ASBP blood donor recruiter. "A trauma patient could be someone injured in a vehicular accident or by a gun shot. Heart surgery patients generally require about six to 10 pints of blood during the surgery."

"The need for adequate supplies of blood in time of hostilities is extremely important," she added.

The military blood program was established in 1952 by a presidential order as part of the national blood program.

Since the Korean War the

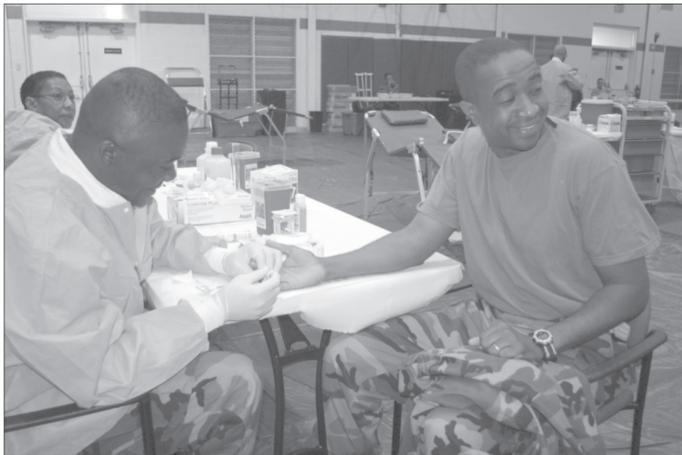


Photo by Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo

Maj. Sonny Deyampart (right), 93rd Sig. Bde. chemical operations OIC, cringes as Sgt. Colin Green, 7217 IMSU medical lab technician, pricks Deyampart's finger tip to check blood iron levels.

military blood program has provided more than 1.5 million units of blood to treat sick and injured servicemembers on the battlefield. Today the program maintains 65,000 units of frozen blood and 5,000 units of liquid cells at all times in order to meet readiness requirements.

"People should know that blood platelets only last about five days, red blood cells last 35-42 days and fresh frozen

plasma lasts one year," said Hamblin.

While military donors give blood freely, the processing, storage and transportation of blood does carry a significant cost. The average cost of blood from outside sources is about \$250 per unit, according to the ASBP website.

When the ASBP cannot collect enough blood, the military must purchase products from civilian agencies, such as the

Red Cross, assuming that the blood is available for purchase.

More than 300 93rd Sig. Bde. Soldiers participated in the event, said Capt. Quintina Smiley, 93rd Sig. Bde. assistant S-1 and blood drive organizer.

About 15 minutes after she arrived, Myers' blood donor process was completed.

"It was all right," she said with a mouthful of brownies. "It didn't hurt."



Photo by Pvt. Armando Monroig

More blood

Capt. Jonathan Ballard (left), Company D, 447th Signal Battalion, accepts the Blood Donor of the Month award Dec. 11 from Staff Sgt. Aaron Payton (right), noncommissioned officer in charge, Kendrick Memorial Blood Center. D Company donated 34 pints during November to earn the award. Holding the guidon is Pvt. Abel Salazar.

CLEP going through withdrawals

Special to The Signal

The current paper-based College Level Examination Program tests continue to be withdrawn. The most popular will not be available after Jan. 31. The remaining tests will be withdrawn by March 31.

Servicemembers may take CLEP tests at national test centers on an unfunded basis. Since July 2001, more than 1,300 national test centers located on college campuses have offered the computer-based CLEP (eCBT) testing program. DANTES does not currently fund CLEP eCBT testing at national test centers.

Starting January 2004, DANTES intends to fund the CLEP eCBT test fee for military personnel at national test centers. Go to the DANTES homepage at http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/examinations/CLEP.htm#NationalTestCenters for the most current DANTES-funding policy.

The fees charged by national test centers are not funded by DANTES. Military examinees are responsible for paying the registration fee charged by the college and the test fee charged by the College Board. These

fees vary. A local testing site is Augusta State University.

All eCBT tests are available at ASU, but there is not funding available for those tests at this time. (Call ASU's Counseling and Testing Center at 737-1471 for current prices and dates, if you are interested in taking a CLEP test at

ASU on an unfunded basis.)

In addition to the DANTES website, a list of specific test titles and withdrawal dates is available at the Education Center on Barnes Avenue, Building 21606.

CLEP paper-based tests are still being offered at Fort

Gordon until they are withdrawn. Tests are scheduled by education counselors at the Education Center during regular hours. The center is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 7:30 a.m.-4:45 p.m., and Wednesday 7:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

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369th Signal Battalion's top PT performers compete for "Iron Soldier"

Sgt. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

There's meeting the standard, and then there's excelling.

Saturday the 369th Signal Battalion had a contest to showcase the Soldiers in their battalion who perform above the standard in physical fitness.

The event is called the "Iron Soldier" competition and Soldiers in training from companies B, C, D and E met in Gym Four to determine the battalion's Iron Soldiers.

All competitors needed at least a physical training score of 270 to compete (with a score of 90 or more points in each event) and also had to have completed their final Army Physical Fitness Test to be eligible, said 1st Sgt. Rafael Gonzalez, Company E, 369th Signal Battalion.

Although most of the competitors in the contest were in a younger age group, all entrants were judged by the standards of the 27 to 31 year old age bracket in push-ups and sit-ups, the bracket with the most difficult physical standards in those events, and the 22 to 26 year old age bracket in the run.

The winners finished well beyond the Army Standard of 180 points for a PT test. The male overall champion, Pvt. Joseph Carvalho, tallied a score of 350 points on the extended scale, doing 91 push-ups, 104 sit-ups and a 12:08 two mile run to post those numbers.

"I'm usually near that score, or really close, but I've never scored that high before," Carvalho said.

"Today I just really tried my hardest, and I passed it (his previous high scores.)"

The overall female champion, Pfc. Tiffany Bro, put up a score of 298 on the alternative age scale, although she is only 22. She said scored a 299 on her last PT test in basic training, but said this PT test was by far her best effort, because she would have maxed her age group's PT test with her Iron Soldier performance. Bro cranked out 48 push-ups, 92 sit-ups and ran a



Photos by Sgt. Ryan Matson

369th Signal Battalion Soldiers competed in a standard Army Physical Fitness Test to determine their "Iron Soldier."

blazing 15:31 to win the female title.

Both Soldiers are in the National Guard. Carvalho will return to his home in Hawaii following AIT, while Bro said she plans to enlist in the active duty Army when she returns. They said having the battalion-wide competition gave them a high level of motivation.

"Having our company out here helped a lot," Bro said.

"If they weren't here, I don't think I would have done as well. I wasn't feeling very well going into the competition, but the company was here to support me and that helped me a lot."

The contest, a regular Army physical training test consisting of push-ups, sit-ups and a two-mile run, started at 8 a.m. in Gym Four with Sgt. 1st Class Nathaniel Bean, Company A, 369th Signal Battalion, singing the national anthem. Bean is a former member of the Soldier Show cast.

The last Iron Soldier competition was held in October. Though the event started as a quarterly event, Gonzalez said the battalion is hoping to have four to five competitions each year. The event was devised by the battalion's command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Johnny Dorsey.

Dorsey was on hand to watch the event along with Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Terry U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort

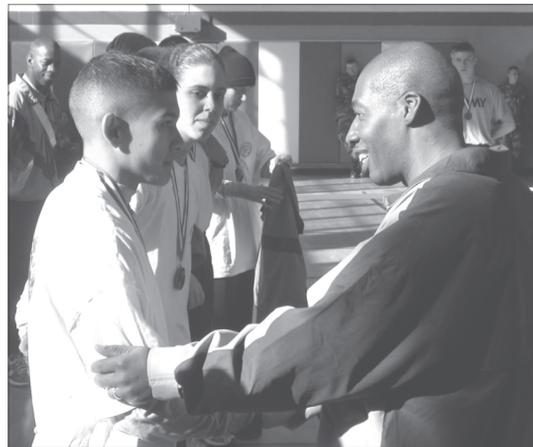
Gordon, Reuben Peppers, 15th Signal Brigade, and Joseph Thomas, Jr., 93rd Signal Brigade, and Lt. Col. Dwayne Williams, 369th Signal Battalion commander. All of these leaders from the post and brigade presented the top three male and female finishers with coins and certificates of achievement in recognition of their outstanding performance.

The top male and female winners also received a one-year membership in the Signal Corps Regimental Association, as well as a one-year membership in the Association of the U.S. Army, a \$25 gift certificate from the Post Exchange, an Impact Army Achievement Medal, and a medalion.

On Oct. 25, the 447th Signal Battalion held a similar event, known as the "Centurion Challenge," which was created by their battalion command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Demetris Fields. According to Terry, there is talk of spreading the event brigade-wide, and allowing the two battalions to compete head-to-head.

Terry, who was witnessing the 369th's event for the first time, described it as "awesome." "You can feel the adrenaline, you can feel the energy," he said as hundreds of AIT students cheered for their companies on the bleachers behind him.

"This is part of our Army every day."



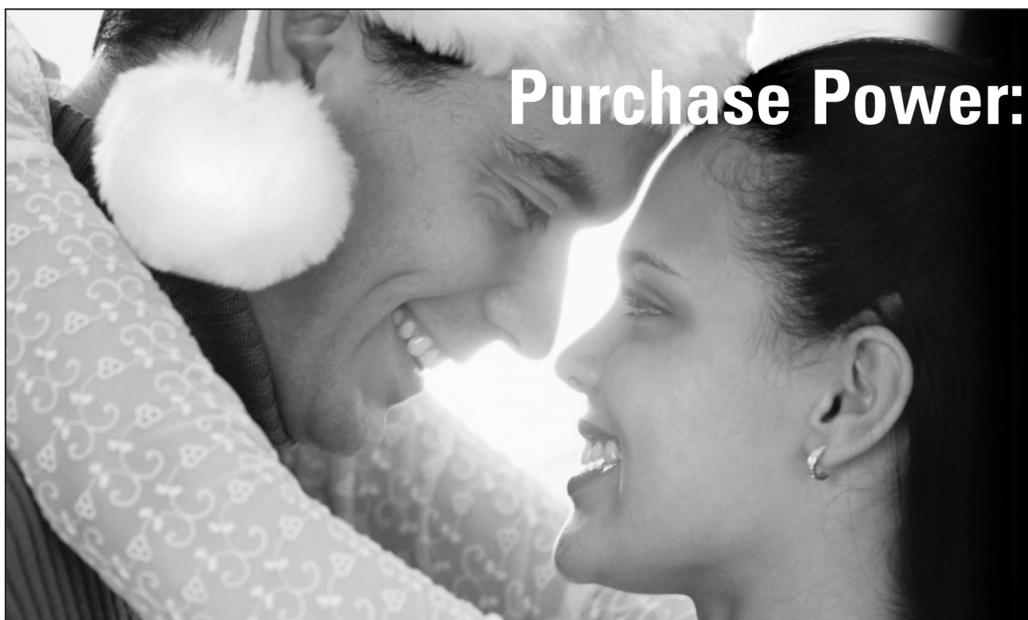
Pvt. Joseph Carvalho (left), 369th Signal Battalion, is congratulated by 15th Signal Brigade Command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Reuben Peppers (right), after winning the battalion's Iron Soldier contest, while female winner Pfc. Tiffany Bro looks on.



Photo by Pvt. Armando Monroig

Entranced at the Dinner Theatre

Master hypnotist Gary Conrad instructs a group of hypnotized audience members to steer Santa's sleigh during his first performance at the Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre Saturday. Conrad performed two shows, at 7:30 p.m. (Rated G) and at 10 p.m. (Rated R.) Conrad, who performed here last year, returned to Fort Gordon for full house performances.



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706-798-2691

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Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
Nursery provided
for all services
Youth Ministries
Sunday 4:00 p.m.

CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH

1285 Winter Road In
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Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Night &
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Worship Services 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service 6:00 p.m.
Youth & Children Mts.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting &
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Michael Joslin

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515 Gibbs Road
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www.evanschurchofchrist.org

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Morning Worship 10 AM
Evening Worship 6 PM
Wednesday Bible Study 7:15 PM

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Rhema Bible Training
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Wednesday Night Bible Study
7:00 p.m.
WBPI TV-49 CABLE 12
Monday - 11:00 p.m.

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FAX: 706-792-9881
Web Page: www.foclc.org
E-mail: foclc@aol.com
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and 10:45
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8:30 a.m.
Rotating Fridays - Adult Single's
Outreach 7:00 p.m.
3rd Friday - Senior Adult
Fellowship (55-over) 7:00 p.m.
2nd Saturday
Women's Outreach 9:00 a.m.
3rd Saturday & 3rd Sunday
Minister's Entry Level Program
10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Advanced School of Ministry
10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Elijah's Mantle
(School of Prophets)
10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
4th Tuesday - Marriage Maintenance
7:00 p.m.
Every Wednesday
Corporate Prayer - 6:00 p.m.
Noon Day Bible Study
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Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.
Every Saturday
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Baxter Stanley, Assoc. Pastor

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9:00 - 9:30 a.m. Fellowship
9:30-10:15 a.m. - Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
2:00 p.m. Korean Full Gospel Tabernacle
6:00 pm. Evening Worship

TUESDAY

10:00 a.m. Fellowship
10:30-11:20 a.m. - Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
12:15 p.m. - Fellowship
12:45 p.m. - Bible Study

WEDNESDAY

6:00 p.m. Fellowship
7:00 p.m. - Bible Study
8:00 p.m. - Fellowship
8:30 p.m. - Bible Study

THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. Fellowship
8:00 p.m. - Bible Study
9:00 p.m. - Fellowship
9:30 p.m. - Bible Study

FRIDAY

12:00 p.m. Prayer, Healing,
Deliverance Service

SATURDAY

9:00 p.m. Joy Fellowship
(Women's - 2nd Saturday)
FIRST EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH
2040 Ebenezer Drive
Hephzibah, GA. 30815
(706) 592-9207

Rev. Moses D. Anderson, Pastor
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Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Mid-Week
Service 11:00 a.m.

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(Daycare Hours)
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Sunday Morning Worship - 11:15 a.m.
Wednesday: Prayer & Bible Study 7 p.m.
Friday: Evangelistic Night 7:30 p.m.
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11 a.m. Warm and inviting worship
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4 p.m. Middle School activities
5 p.m. Senior high activities
6 p.m. Camp meeting "style" worship
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ages 3 through 5th grade
harlemumcpastor@msn.com

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Deacon Tyrone McCoy, Chairman
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United States Army Retired
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Morning Worship Services
11:30 a.m.
Bible Study & Prayer Services
7:00 p.m.

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3045 Deans Bdg. Road,
Augusta, Ga. 30906
706-793-3104
Sunday
Bible Study 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Bandstand 6:00 p.m.
(Activities for all ages)
Evening Worship Service 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Fellowship
Family Supper 5:30 p.m.
Children's Activities
6:15 - 7:30 p.m.
Adult & Youth Activities
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Sanctuary Choir - 7:30 p.m.

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Celebración (11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)
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North Augusta, SC 29841
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Wednesday Worship
12:15 p.m.
Bible Study 7:30 p.m.
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scheduled services
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Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Worship
Service 7:00 p.m.
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Worship 8:45 & 11:00
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11 a.m. Service Only
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Worship Service 6:15 p.m.
Wed.-Fellowship Supper 5:45 p.m.
Bible Studies 6:30 p.m.
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www.gbmg-umc.org/marvin

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30901
706-774-0030
Elder Daniel F. Gant, Pastor
Res. 706-651-8596
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Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
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Saturday Prayer 11:00 a.m.

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Sunday Evening Service 6:30
Wednesday Service 7-8:30
Sunday AM Pick up at 9:45
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Sunday Worship 11 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:30 PM
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www.providencecolumbiacounty.org

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Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
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Sunday - 11:00 p.m.
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Augusta, GA 30909
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(Covenant of Christian House Of
Prayer, Killeen, TX)
(706) 736-7467
FAX: (706) 736-4351
Church e-mail: rho7@bellsouth.net
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School of Ministry (1st Sat.)
Men Fellowship (2nd Sat.)
Women Fellowship (3rd Sat.)
Singles Ministry (4th Sat.)
Teens Ministry
Youth & Children Ministries

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Sunday Worship 11:15 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
"Learning to live"
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
THURSDAY
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Children Dance Practice
SATURDAY
Prayer 8:30 a.m.
Soul Winning 1:00 p.m.

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Hephzibah, GA 30815
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10:00 a.m. Sundays
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706-737-5963
738-3138
www.Souls-Harbor.com

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Pastor Pamela M. Gardner
592-5941

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706-798-1482
(Open at all times to all people)
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8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
with Bible Study

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East of Bobby Jones Expwy.
Augusta, Ga. 30909
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Sunday Evening - 7:00 p.m.
Nursery Provided

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Thursday Prayer & Evangelistic
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Augusta, Ga. 30904
706-736-8476
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Youth Choir Starts at 5:00
Snack Supper at 5:30
Bible Adventure and CYF at 6:00
Evening Worship 6:00
THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (Episcopal)
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738-3386
www.goodshepherd-augusta.net
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Growing the Kingdom"
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11:15* a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Church School at 10:15*
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THE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
"A Beacon For Christ"
2165 Kings Way
Augusta, GA 30904
706-736-8446
Pastor - Dr. Michael L. Ruffin
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
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Be our guest for wednesday
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(with reservations) at 5:30
Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.
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Elementary School
3637 Heirs Blvd.
Hephzibah, GA 30815
10:30 a.m.
website:
<http://www.feelthechange.org>

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website for info, maps and
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e-mail:
wbaptist@mindspring.com
www.areachurches.com
Sunday Services:
8:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m.
Sunday School
for all ages 10 a.m.
Teen & Ladies Bible Study
10 a.m.
Wednesday:
AWANA/Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
Saturday Visitation 10:30 a.m.

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Veterans rise early to greet Soldiers on R&R

Spc. Lorie Jewell
Army News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — With home hundreds of miles away in New York, Sgt. Adam Mulvey wasn't expecting any familiar faces meeting him when he arrived at Baltimore Washington International Airport to start two weeks of rest and recuperation.

Neither were Spc. Anthony Thomas and Sgt. Maurisah Hushma, both headed for Fort Campbell, Ky. The Soldiers were caught a bit off guard when they were greeted, nonetheless, by several unfamiliar — but friendly — faces from the Maryland Veterans of Foreign Wars.

As they came through the doors leading into the International corridor, William Self, department surgeon, stopped clapping long enough to shake each Soldier's hand.

A short distance later, there were more greetings from Self's wife, Carolyn, and Raymond Shipley, department commander, who also handed out Uplink telephone calling cards.

The last stop in the welcoming line was Richard Udoff, District 7 commander, who beckoned service members to him with outstretched arms.

"Welcome Home! Where you headed to, Soldier?" said Udoff, repeating the greeting over and over again without ever losing the boom in his voice that drew servicemembers to him. Knowing their destination, Udoff offered the quickest route to the right ticket counter or gate area.

"We thought we were coming through an empty airport," said Kushma, who handles NBC duties and the mail for her brigade, the 3/101st Aviation, currently deployed near Mosul, Iraq. "It's nice to see that people care."

Mulvey appreciated having veterans meeting and greeting, then shepherding the Soldiers on their way.

"I like the continuity of it," said Mulvey, a scout for the 1st Brigade, 63rd Armor Division in Kirkuk. "They went before us, now they're here for us when we come back. It makes me feel really good."

The feeling is mutual, the veterans said.

"At my age, I can't do much for the military," said Udoff, 72, who was a flight engineer in the Air Force from 1950-54. "But I can do this. It's very gratifying."

Shipley agreed. "It makes me feel better knowing we succeed in getting these guys and gals out of here just a little faster," said Shipley, 75, who spent five years in the Army as an infantryman toward the end of World War II, followed by another eight years in the Air Force.

The group has missed just a few days since the R&R program brought the first plane load of Soldiers from Iraq Sept. 26. They are typically at the airport by 5 a.m., seven days a week.

For the Selfs, that means getting up at 3 a.m. for the 40-mile trip from their home near Frederick, Md.

"When that alarm rings, I think 'Oh, it's just too early!'" said Carolyn Self, 71. "But once the feet hit the ground and I get moving, it's OK."

All are motivated by the same belief that Soldiers need to know how much folks back home appreciate their service.

"My husband was a Vietnam vet.

He wasn't welcomed back," said Carolyn Self. "It's very important that no one else is treated that way again."

Self retired in 1991 after 42 years in the Navy medical field, which included nine years with the Marines' 3rd Medical Battalion in Vietnam. He said he almost went to Desert Storm, but was stopped when officials noticed his age. At 61, he was a year short of the mandatory retirement age.

"I would have gone, too," he grinned.

At the airport, Self's role is to keep the waiting families informed about the process their Soldier is going through before coming through the doors. He gets them pumped, encouraging them to yell, clap, and make plenty of loud noise when the doors open. It's part of the reason his wife refers to him as "The Mouth."

Loud is good, Soldiers said. Many returned the greetings with happy hoahs.

"I could hear it before I even got to the doors," said Spc. Carlos Garcia, of the 18th Personnel Service Battalion of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment. "I wondered what all the noise was. Then I came through, and Wow! It was so cool."



Photo by Spc. Lorie Jewell

Richard Udoff, VFW District 7 commander, greets Soldiers coming into BWI Airport on rest and recuperation leave. Udoff queries Soldiers about their travel plans then directs them to ticket counters or gates in an effort to get them to their final destinations as quickly as possible.

Good news for tough times

Chaplain (Lt. Col.)
Larry Lawrence
Deputy installation chaplain

Recently, three men were each nervously awaiting the birth of their first child in the delivery room at a local hospital. The men were too scared to go in the delivery room.

Soon the head nurse arrives with good news from the delivery rooms. She said to the first father-to-be, "Sir, you're the father of twins!" "That's great," he said. "I'm a baseball player and I'm going to sign a contract with the Minnesota Twins. This will be good press."

Soon, the nurse arrived and said to the second father-to-be, "Sir, you're the father of triplets." "Fantastic," he said, "because I work for the 3M Company. This will be great press."

The third father-to-be got up and ran out of the room. He was moving so fast that he did not bother to take the elevator. Finally, the nurse yelled out the window as the man entered the nearby parking lot. The nurse cried out, "What's wrong? Where are you going?"

He said, "I've got to resign fast. I'm vice president of Seven-Up!"

That poor father-to-be was feeling a bit overwhelmed. I suppose many of us feel overwhelmed, especially during the holiday season. Some are ready to tender their resignation, ready to "hang it up."

I wonder if you sometimes get the feeling that you've had just about all the bad news you can stand. I know that I do. There are times when bad news just seems to keep coming at us like a tidal wave. Before you can recover from one disaster, there's already another one headed your direction.

The newspapers, magazines and nightly news shows continue to immerse us with reports of various misfortunes until it almost leaves you numb. You begin to understand the man who said, "I used to be an incurable optimist, but now I guess I have been cured."

I am sure, if there is anything that all of us need to hear it is good news for tough times. The mes-

sage of Christmas is a proclamation of "good news" for tough times. The "good news" in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago still provides hope and meaning for us today. We certainly can't improve on what happened that first Christmas but we can improve on the way we celebrate it today. I want to share two truths that pulsate from the first Christmas story that can never be improved upon.

First, God Himself entered into time and space. The gospel writer, John, boldly declares the word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14) No longer is God just a theological nicety or an abstract concept. God became human in Jesus Christ.

Max Lucado, in his book entitled *God Came Near*, so descriptively writes, "The omnipotent, in one instant, made himself breakable. He who had been spirit became pierceable. He who was larger than the universe had become an embryo. And He who sustains the world with a word chose to be dependent upon the nourishment of a young girl."

God has come into human life. For many of us, this is an uncomfortable thing to accept. It is easier to keep God at a distance. That way God won't mess with my life. I can stay the way I am. I can be the victim of my circumstances! Let Him into the muck and mire of our world. For only if we let Him in can He pull us out.

The second reason the Christmas story is good news for tough times is this: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. God in Christ does not run away from the darkness. God sets up residence right in the middle of darkness. If Jesus is truly God, everything becomes clear to me. If I cannot believe this, everything becomes dark again. In Jesus Christ, light has come to a darkened world.

This is the encouraging word that comes to those who feel overwhelmed by their circumstances. Truly the Christmas story is for today what it was in Bethlehem two thousand years ago — good news for tough times.

PAP team points troops toward home

Army News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Ushering Soldiers off airplanes and through the business side of rest and recuperation leave is the job of the Army's Personnel Assistance Point, or PAP, team.

At Baltimore Washington International Airport, the 12-person team is made up largely of non-commissioned officers who staff the PAP counter in

the international terminal around the clock, seven days a week.

Team members get Soldiers signed out on leave, guide them through immigration and customs check points, point them to their airline gates or ticket counters and answer any questions about getting out of the airport, or their return flight back to theater.

"One of the most gratifying experiences of the job is expe-

riencing the joyous reunion of the Soldiers with their families," said Staff Sgt. Tina Dove, a PAP team member.

The team's work has earned praise from representatives of other organizations — the USO, VFW and BWI staff — that assist Soldiers at the airport, as well as Army officials who have observed the team in action.

"The NCOs are first rate," said Col. James Martin of the

U.S. Army Human Resources Command. "They take the time to answer even the simplest question from a Soldier. They work well with these organizations and provide outstanding support to the R&R Soldiers, ensuring success."

PAP teams are also in place at the international airports in Atlanta and Dallas, said Tom Gray, chief of HRC's transportation plans and operations branch.

Auctioneer sets fire to annual Christmas auction

Special to The Signal

The "lady in the BDUs," better known as Brig. Gen. Janet Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commander, enthusiastically served as the auctioneer for the Federally Employed Women's annual Christmas Auction and luncheon held at the Gordon Club Dec. 10.

A lively battle among 60 members, guests and the auctioneer garnered \$956 in less than two hours of bids. Members donated items for bid and each brought new toys to be given to Safe Homes of Augusta. Donations for the event were also received from a local business and a retired post employee.

The "Lady in BDUs" added zest to the event by giving bidders a descriptive tag setting each apart, and adding an endearing touch of humor.

Hicks' description of items and their potential use brought tears of laughter and heated the bidding, as she outbid herself as she maneuvered to raise the selling price on some items. She gained items as she took winning bids including beautiful satin sachets and a stoneware pot handcrafted by Jerry Pruett, a former Fort

Gordon employee. The monies raised will be divided between the Augusta

Safe Homes and Fort Gordon's Christmas House. FEW is open to all women,

civilian and military, and any interested and supportive men.



Photo by Jan McElmurray

Brig. Gen. Janet Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commander, auctions off a Teddy Bear as part of the Federally Employed Women's annual Christmas Auction Dec. 10 at the Gordon Club. The auction raised nearly \$1,000 for Augusta Safe Homes and Fort Gordon's Christmas House.

Chapel Call

Collective Protestant Services

Sunday
9:00 a.m. • Liturgical Service, Bicentennial Chapel
9:00 a.m. • Gen "X" Soldiers Service, Friendship Chapel
10 a.m. • Eisenhower Army Medical Center Chapel
11 a.m. • Gospel Service at Signal Theatre
11 a.m. • Bicentennial Chapel
11 a.m. • Friendship Chapel

Catholic Services
11:45 a.m. Monday thru Friday, Eisenhower Army Med Ctr. Chapel
12:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday, Good Shepherd Chapel
3:30 p.m. Saturday, Confessions, Good Shepherd Chapel
5 p.m. Saturday, Vigil Mass, Good Shepherd Chapel

Sunday Masses
8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., Good Shepherd Chapel
11:45 a.m. Eisenhower Army Medical Center Chapel

Jewish Activities
Holy Day Services, Announced
Jewish Activities Center, Bldg. 38804
Daily and Sabbath service available off-post for Jewish personnel
For information call 791-3959

Islamic Services
Jumah Prayer Service on Fridays Oct-Apr at 1245-1:30, and Apr-Oct from 1:30-2:30.

These are held in Bldg. 38804, Academic Drive.
For more information, call CPO (Ret.) Marshall Abuwi 772-4303

Denominational Services
LDS Service - Sunday 2 p.m., Barnes Avenue Chapel
Samoan Service, Sunday 1 p.m., Bicentennial Chapel, Bldg. 28414

Religious Education
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School, Religious Education Center
Sunday, 11:00 a.m., Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) Classes, Religious Education Center (Sept. thru May).

Other Programs/Services
Episcopalian Soldier Representative is Kurt Miller at 791-0213
LDS representative is Sergeant 1st Class (retired) Scott Robison, 533-0376. Apostolic Pentecostal's representatives are Chaplain Brewster, 791-4683, or Chaplain Snyder, 791-2539

Bible Studies
OCF Bible Study - Monday 6:30 a.m., Officer Christian Fellowship Bible Study, Friendship Chapel, 791-2056. Friday evening OCF POC is Col. Hook, 863-8231, or Capt. Craft, 364-5144.

Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Protestant Women of the Chapel, Bldg. 28414
Bicentennial Chapel

Wednesday, 11:30 a.m., Devotional Luncheon, Bicentennial Chapel, Bldg. 28414

Wednesday, 9:30 a.m., Protestant Women of the Chapel, Bldg. 28414

Wednesday 11:45 a.m. EAMC Bible Study, DDEAMC Dn. Fac. Conf. Rm., 3rd floor

Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Bldg. 39713, Faith Community Bible Study

Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Friendship Chapel Bible Study

Thursday, 11:30 a.m. 63rd & 67th SIG BN Bible Study, Contact Chaplain

Chapel Directory
Bicentennial Chapel, 791-3959
Good Shepherd Chapel (Catholic), 791-2945
Faith Community Chapel Activities 791-4703 (during duty hours)
Barnes Avenue Friendship Chapel, 791-2056
Eisenhower Army Medical Center Chapel, 787-6667

Religious Education
Protestant/Catholic Program, Mr. Randall Dillard 791-4703

For additional information, call 791-4683
the Installation Chaplain's Office, Building 29601

Community Events

EWC gift wrap

The Fort Gordon Enlisted Wives Club's Annual Christmas Scholarship Gift Wrap is currently in operation until **Wednesday** in front of the Post Exchange. This is EWC's only major fundraiser. For information call Ginny Terry at 790-2086 or Rosemary Marshall at 791-2675.

"First Steps" support group

Army Community Service offers a support group for new and expecting moms, to help them take steps towards successful parenting.

The class is 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **Jan. 9** at the Good Shepard Chapel. To register call 791-3579/7557

Parenting class

Army Community Service offers a class titled *Homecoming: Making the Transition*.

Discussions will include family relations and relationships with children. The class is 10 a.m.-noon **Jan. 9** in Darling Hall, Room 229A. Call 791-3579/0794 to register.

New military spouse support group

Army Community Service offers a support group for military spouses new to the military.

The group next meets 11 a.m.-1 p.m. **Jan. 21** in Darling Hall Room 229A.

Guest speaker is Jim Zills from Augusta Tech. Refreshments will be served.

For information call 791-3579/7557.

CPAC training

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center is hosting an Employee and Labor Relations Seminar for supervisors of Department of Army civilian personnel **Jan. 20-22**.

The training will be held at the Courtyard from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. each day. Training is funded by Fort Gordon for Fort Gordon employees.

Civilian and military leaders are eligible to attend. Contact Carla Baucom at 791-3956 or e-mail baucmc@gordon.army.mil to sign up. Registration required, classes filled on a first-come basis.

Ed center news

Beginning Jan. 8, the American Military University will have a representative at the Education Center the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., to answer questions about the programs and services available from the university. The Education Center is located in Building

21606, Barnes Avenue.

For information call Juva Alexander 791-2000.

PX holiday hours

The Post Exchange has the following extended hours starting Monday:

Monday-Dec. 20, 9 a.m.-10 p.m.

Dec. 21, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Dec. 22-23, 9 a.m.-10 p.m.

Dec. 24, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Aviation discussion

The next Augusta Museum of History Brown Bag Lunch Series is at noon **Jan. 7**. The speaker is Phil Coleman who will discuss World War II Air Force pilots.

Cost is \$3, free to museum members; reservations required by calling 722-8454. Bring your own lunch, beverages and dessert provided.

The museum is located at 560 Reynolds St. in Augusta.

Transitional compensation

Transitional compensation is a program designed to provide compensation and benefits to the spouse and children of military personnel when they have been subject to spouse abuse.

To apply for transitional compensation contact your local Staff Judge Advocate, victim/witness liaison or the Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program victim advocate coordinator.

For more information call 791-0793 or go to www.gordon.army.mil/acs.

FCC certification

Child and Youth Services will conduct Family Child Care certification training for family members living in government quarters who wish to provide child care in their homes.

Orientation is 9-10 a.m. Jan. 16; classes held 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Jan. 20-27 in Building 45400. Initial applications process to become a provider will be held Jan. 5-9. For information, call 791-3993 or 791-4440.

Orientation course

The commander and first sergeant Orientation Course is Jan. 12-16 in Darling Hall, Room 229B. Class begins at 8:45 a.m. Monday, 9 a.m. Tuesday to Friday, and is finished no later than 5 p.m. daily.

Registration deadline is 5 p.m. **Dec. 19**. Any commander or 1st sergeant who has just assumed command, has been serving in the position six months or less, or who are about to take

command may attend.

To register or for information call Sgt. 1st Class Darron Ison at 791-9536.

Extended hours

The Fort Gordon commissary has extended holiday hours: **Saturday** 9 a.m.-8 p.m., **Sunday** 10 a.m.-7 p.m., **Monday-Tuesday** 9 a.m.-8 p.m., **Wednesday** 9 a.m.-3 p.m., **Thursday** closed.

Dec. 26-27 9 a.m.-7 p.m., **Dec. 28** 10 a.m.-6 p.m., **Dec. 29-30** 9 a.m.-7 p.m., **Dec. 31** 9 a.m.-7 p.m., **Jan. 1** closed.

Christmas Eve service

There is a post-wide Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7 p.m. **Wednesday** at Bicentennial Chapel, Building 28414, Brainard Avenue. Call 791-3874.

FEW training program

Federally Employed Women is holding its Southeast Regional Training program **Feb. 18-20** at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel in Augusta.

Early-bird registration is \$95 if received by Jan. 16; \$125 afterwards. One-day on-site training is \$65.

Topics include Violence in the Workplace, Computer Security, the ABCs of Suicide Prevention, Mentoring and Teambuilding, Re-energizing and Staying Motivated, Identity Theft, Managing Multiple Priorities, Taking Charge of Your Success, How to Avoid Abusive Tax Schemes, Your Credit, Your Career and Your Future.

For registration information call Judy Creer at 791-5653, or e-mail creerj@gordon.army.mil.

BIG scholarship

The Greater Augusta Chapter of Blacks in Government is offering a scholarship for Richmond and Columbia county high school graduating seniors. Applicants will be judged on scholastic standing or trade aptitude, as well as citizenship, character, participation in school and community activities, the applicant's stated desire and sincerity for furtherance of her/his education and letters of recommendations.

Applications available from high school guidance counselors; deadline for applications is **Friday**. For information call Thomas Brown Jr., at 736-0778.

Classes begin

Augusta Technical College offers the following course for

Winter Quarter from **Jan. 6** to March 19:

Introduction to Microcomputers, Business Math and Inter Relations and Professional Development. For information, call 791-7755.

Story hour

Woodworth Library hosts story hour each **Wednesday** from 11 a.m.-noon.

Children of active and retired military, and DoD civilians are invited to participate. The program is designed for children ages 2 through 5.

Volunteer readers are also needed for story hour. For information, call Liz Knight or Joyce Daniels at 791-7323.

Christmas activities

Fort Discovery is having a Holiday Camp **Monday and**

Tuesday and Dec. 29-30. Children in grades K - 5 may participate in camp for one day or all four days. There will be a different camp each day and operating hours are 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Cost: one Day - \$25/members; \$30/non-members; four days - \$90/members; \$110/non-members.

For information and applications call Lisa Golden at 821-0646.

Employment workshop

A weekly workshop, "Tools of Employment," is held 9-11 a.m. **Monday** mornings to assist in resume writing, job searching, and interviewing techniques.

The workshop meets in the Community Life Building, 33512. For information, call 791-3579.



Photo by Spc. Intisar Sabree

Show me the money

Brig. Gen. Janet Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general, is presented a check for \$1,000 from Lt. Col. Paul Nakasone, 206th Military Intelligence Battalion commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Chavez, during the grand opening of Christmas House.

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Scholarships are available for qualified licensed practical nurses to complete an associate's degree in nursing in one year at Augusta State University. Enroll now for January classes. Second class starting in May. For more information, call ASU's Nursing Dept. at 706-737-1725.

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Fort Gordon REPORT

COMING UP

The newest edition of *Army Newswatch* premieres Monday and includes the following stories:

- Preston selected as next sergeant major of the Army
- Institute for Soldier-Nanotechnology
- All Army boxing results

The *Fort Gordon Report* and *Army Newswatch* alternate weeks on Charter Cable Channel 13 on: Mondays and Thursdays at 7:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays at 7 a.m., 12 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays at 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The next edition of the *Fort Gordon Report* premieres Jan. 12.

Catch the newest *Fort Gordon Report* on Comcast Cable Channel 66 on: Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 9:00 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:30 a.m.

The *Fort Gordon Report* is the Signal Center's official television news program and is produced on post by the Fort Gordon Public Affairs Office and the Training Support Center.

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Iraqi insurgents struck “where they live”

Sgt. Christopher Stanis
Army News Service

ABU GHURAYB, Iraq – First Armored Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team conducted a rare brigade-sized cordon and search of an Abu Ghurayb apartment complex, northwest of Baghdad Dec. 4. The operation, conducted by the Fort Riley, Kan.-based unit, was the wrap up of three large-scale cordon and searches by the brigade. The first two were conducted during Operation Iron Hammer, said Maj. Dale Ringler, 3BCT operations officer. Reports show the Abu Ghurayb area to be a dangerous place for coalition forces, and additional intelligence reports over the past several months narrowed in on the particular apartment complex as a haven for anti-coalition forces, division officials said. The operation, named Operation Bulldog Mammoth, found:

- 220 AK-47 assault rifles, machine guns, pistols and other rifles.
- 24 plates of body armor and a U.S.-made vest.
- 16 cases of U.S. military meals, ready to eat.
- 12 mortar sights.
- 10 hand grenades.
- five rocket-propelled grenades and 15 RPG launchers.
- An assortment of electrical components associated with building improvised explosive devise.
- Russian-made night vision devices.
- protective masks.
- Saddam Hussein paraphernalia.

Additionally, more than 40 personnel were detained, including three on a by-name “black” list of suspects, Ringler said.

Aside from the 2nd Bn, 70th Armor, the operation's major players ranged from units like the the Fort Bragg, N.C.-based 1st Bn., 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, more than 300 Iraqi Civil Defense Corps personnel and an Estonian army platoon.

Two companies from the 709th Military Police Bn. provided an outer cordon.

A Tactical Psychological Operations team from the 1210th PsyOps Company broadcast messages to the complex residents about the coalition's objective.

Two explosive ordnance disposal teams were on site and a platoon of four AH-64 Apache helicopters provided air support for the duration of the operation.

In all, approximately 1,447 Soldiers were involved in the five-and-a-half-hour operation, Ringler said.

The cordon and search went through 2,400 apartments and 53 additional buildings.

“Cordon and searches are normally at the platoon and company level,” said Ringler. “Very rarely do we (include) two battalions (plus supporting units) and make it a brigade-sized operation.”

But the operation was just another “day at the office” for soldiers like Spc. Travis Morrone, Company A, 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment.

“For a while we were doing (cordon and searches) every other day,” he said.

Now they do them less frequently, but with larger masses of forces.

“These are the guys supposedly attacking us,” Morrone said. “We had to come take their (weapons) from them.”

The three suspects were caught in the outer cordon while trying to escape the area, Ringler said.

“(One man) is possibly responsible for the mortar attack against the MPs in the old Abu Ghurayb Police Station, killing a female (soldier),” Ringler said.

And their proficiency showed in the operation's overall success of Operation Bulldog Mammoth, according to the 3rd BCT's commander.

“Our soldiers have become a seasoned combat force,” said Col. Russ Gold, 3BCT commander. “The two battalions conducting this offensive operation also participated in the ground war.

They know how to use finesse and brute force, and when to use what means. They are a professional and extremely competent group of Soldiers that will act with precision and exactness with little to no guidance.”

The key in an operation like this is to give the residents the peace of mind that the coalition is there only to weed out the bad guys, Gold said.

No shots were fired during this operation.

(Stanis is a journalist with the 1st Armored Division's Public Affairs Office.)



Photo by Sgt. Christopher Stanis

Spc. Travis Morrone, Company A, 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, carries an armload of AK-47 assault rifles confiscated during a search of an apartment complex in Abu Ghurayb, Iraq, Dec. 4. The search covered 2,400 apartments and 53 additional buildings, and recovered hundreds of weapons and 40 detainees.

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Augusta Technical College Office at Fort Gordon Education Center

Opens: December 15

Hours of Operation: Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Friday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

ADMISSIONS TESTING

The ASSET test will be administered in December and early January at the Fort Gordon Education Center on Barnes Avenue beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Augusta Technical College will be offering the Accounting (Diploma) program and the Business Office Assistant (Technical Certificate of Credit) program at Fort Gordon.

WINTER QUARTER COURSE OFFERINGS

Winter Quarter: Begins January 6, 2004 & Ends March 19, 2004

Abbreviations: CRN-Computer Registration Number; M-Monday; T-Tuesday; W-Wednesday; R-Thursday; Ed Ctr-Ft. Gordon Education Center; CL-Computer Lab; DH-Darling Hall

COURSE #	COURSE NAME	CRN	BLDG	ROOM	DAYS	TIME
SCT 100	Intro to Microcomputers	10910	Ed Ctr	CL	W	1800-2250
MAT 111	Business Math	10915	DH	229B	T & R	1730-1950
EMP 100	Inter Relations & Professional Dev	10916	DH	229B	M	1800-2050

*NOTE: Developmental courses offered as needed.

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Sunday Brunch

At The Gordon Club

Sunday Brunch is served every Sunday from 10:30a.m. - 2 p.m.
Featuring... Carved Beef Inside, Sweet Baked Pit Ham, Belgian Waffles, Omelet Station, Full Breakfast Bar, Salad Bar, Fresh Fruit, Steam Shrimp, Dessert Bar, Hot Bar (Assorted Vegetables, Starches and Meats), Champagne Punch, Bloody Marys, Assorted Juices and more!

Adults - \$12, Children, ages 5-10 - \$6, Children, ages 4 & under - \$3.
For more information, call 791-6780 or 791-2205.

Sports & Leisure

Sports UPDATE

Big buck contest

The Big Buck contest on post is open to all Fort Gordon Hunting License holders ages 10 and older.

The contest runs through **January**, with prizes for the first, second and third place winners in four divisions.

The cost of entering is \$20 for the general public and \$10 for members of the Fort Gordon Sportsman's Club.

For more information, call 791-3317, or go to www.fortgordon.com/fgsc.htm.

Ladies golf schedule

The Ladies Golf Club tees off every Thursday at 9:30 a.m. at Gordon Lakes Golf Course.

For more information, call Pauline Blandeburgo at 863-4737.

Horseback riding

Open riding is available 9 a.m. 3:45 p.m. **Saturdays and Sundays** on a first come, first served basis at the Hilltop Riding Stables. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday open riding is available from 1 - 3:45 p.m. with reservation. Miniature ponies, beginners, intermediate and advanced horses are available.

Call 791-4864 for reservations.

Karaoke

Every **Thursday** is karaoke night at the Courtyard Recreation and Dining Center.

Karaoke is featured from 6 to 10 p.m. Prizes are awarded for best male solo, best female solo, worst solo, best duo or group, worst duo or group and best look-a-like.

The event is open to the public. For information, call 791-6000.

Free Lynx tickets

A small number of free Lynx tickets for the **Dec. 20** game against Columbia 7:35 p.m. at the Augusta/Richmond County Civic Center.

The tickets are free for all active duty and retiree Soldiers. One to two tickets are available per individual, and six tickets are available per family.

The tickets are compliments of the Holiday Inn West, and are available on a first come, first serve basis.

For more information, contact Donna Wisner or stop by Room 382 in Darling Hall. Soldiers and retirees from Eisenhower Army Medical Center may pick up tickets on the fourth floor, room 4B09.

Gordon Lanes hosts New Year's Eve Party

Gordon Lanes Bowling Center will host a New Years Eve party at the lanes starting at 8:30 p.m. **Dec. 31**. The party will last until 2 a.m. **Jan. 1**.

The cost of attending the party is \$19.95 for adults, \$10.95 for children 10 and under and \$8.95 for non-bowlers.

For more information, call Gordon Lanes at 791-3446.



Photo by Al Robinson

Command Sgt. Maj. McKinley Curtis III (right), Regimental Noncommissioned Officer Academy command sergeant major, presents Sgt. 1st Class Tony Glass, RNCOA, with his trophy as Fort Gordon's Athlete of the Month.

Fort Gordon Athlete of the Month: Sgt. 1st Class Tony Glass

Al Robinson
Sports Coordinator

Sgt. 1st Class Tony Glass is a Small Group Leader at the Regimental Noncommissioned Officer Academy (RNCOA) from Newnan, Ga. He attended Newnan High School and graduated in May of 1984. In August 1984, he enlisted in the Army and attended basic training at Fort McClellan, Ala.

Upon completion of basic training he went on to Advanced Individual Training here. He is a graduate of the Primary Leadership Development Course, the Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course and the Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course.

In November 1984, he completed his Advanced Individual Training here and was assigned to his first permanent duty station, Fort Bragg, N.C. While stationed at Fort Bragg, he played on the post basketball team and The All Army Basketball Team. In 1990, while serving with the 6th Signal Battalion at Fort Richardson, Alaska, Glass was a key player on the company level basketball championship team.

In 1993, Glass was reassigned to Fort Gordon with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 447th Signal Battalion. His unit placed second in the post unit level basketball championships. As captain of the Fort Gordon Post Basketball Team, they won many tournaments including the Southern Regional Championship at Fort Stewart, Ga.

In 1997-98, while assigned to the 51st and the 327th Signal Battalion at Fort Bragg, N.C., Glass led both of these teams to the 35th Signal Brigade Championships.

The "Glassman," as he likes to be called, has played on many post basketball teams and company level teams. He has led every company level basketball team to which he has been assigned to the championship game. In 2001 while a student here, his unit won the Fort Gordon Unit Level Basketball Championships. In 2002, while station at Camp Humphreys, Korea, 304th Signal Battalion, he led his unit to the 8th Army Basketball Championships.

When head coach 1st Sgt. Anthony Alford of ANCOA was asked to comment about his player, he said "we have a team full of great players, but one stands out as the ultimate leader, Sgt. 1st Class Tony Glass. He truly deserves the recognition as "Athlete of the Month". He totally dedicates himself to his team and motivates others to play better than their best. The Glassman takes a challenge personal which motivates him to play harder. Sgt. 1st Class Glass is a true champion for all others to emulate. The Glassman is the hardest working big man in company level basketball. I'm glad he plays for my team because I would hate to play against him. The Glassman rules the paint and cannot be denied."

What does the future hold for this Soldier/athlete? Glass's short term goal is to become the branch chief for the Advance Non-Commissioned Officers Course. His long term goal is to be the command sergeant major of the 35th Signal Brigade (ABN). Glass presently lives in Augusta, is married to Sgt. 1st Class Laurie Glass and has three children: Antonio, Monique and Lamar.

(Coaches, if you know a player deserving to be "Fort Gordon Player of the Month," send your nomination with bio to the Fort Gordon Sports office, ATTN: Al Robinson, or by e-mail to robinsoa@gordon.army.mil. The nominations for January must be submitted by Jan. 20. For more information, call 791-1142.)

Unit basketball round-up



Photos by Al Robinson

Raheim James, 518th Signal Company, 56th Signal Battalion, (in the dark jersey) and Tony Glass, Regimental Noncommissioned Officer Academy, (in the white jersey) battle for the center jump.

Al Robinson
Sports Coordinator

Last week's Fort Gordon Company Level Basketball Game of the Week was Dec. 11 between two unbeaten teams: 518th Signal Company, 56th Signal Battalion and the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course of the Green Division.

ANCOA controlled the jump ball and hit the first two points of the game. After nearly 8 minutes of play in the first half, it was 518th Sig. Co. 8, ANCOA 4. At the half it was dead even at 20-20. After the break, Tony Glass of ANCOA hit a jumper from the foul line to give ANCOA the lead 22-20. His teammate Trevor Thomas connected on a fast break and gave the non-coms a four-point lead, 24-20.

After the 518th Sig. Co. was unable to make a basket, ANCOA point guard Dukain Rayford connected with a three-pointer, giving the non-coms a seven-point lead, 27-20.

With 11 minutes 30 seconds remaining in the game it was ANCOA leading 32-31. After the non-coms' time out, Ibiere Khalid of 518th Sig. Co., hit a short jumper and put them ahead by one point, 33-32.

With 9 minutes, 29 seconds remaining, it was 518th Sig. Co. 38, ANCOA 32. 518th Sig. Co. took the game, 53-41. Aljamar Ward of 518th Sig. Co. and Trevor Thomas of ANCOA had 12 points for their teams. Other games played last week are:

Red Division (Gym 3)

Company A, 442nd Signal Battalion 53, Company A, 551st Signal Battalion 46
United States Army Garrison 69, 249th General Hospital 55
Company A, 369th Signal Battalion 58, Company A, 73rd Ordnance Battalion 50
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 67th Signal Battalion 54, Detachment 1, 338th Training Squadron (USAF) 28
United States Army Garrison 63, Naval Security Group Activity 59

Headquarters and Operational Company 201st Military Intelligence 51, 249th General Hospital 43
Naval Security Group Activity 50, Company A, 551st Signal Battalion 43
Company A, 447 Signal Battalion 55, Company A, 359th Signal Battalion 50
Company A, 442nd Signal Battalion 41, Company A, 73rd Ordnance Battalion 37
Naval Security Group Activity 42, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 67th Signal Battalion 41

Green Division (Gym 3)

252 Signal Company, 56th Signal Battalion 39, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 93rd Signal Brigade 27
Company B, 297th Military Intelligence Battalion 2, Company A, 67th Signal Battalion O. Alfa Company is removed from the league due to forfeits (2).
518th Signal Company, 56th Signal Battalion 86, Company B, 67th Signal Battalion 35

31st Intelligence Squadron (USAF) 39, Company B, Eisenhower Army Medical Center 32
252 Signal Company, 56th Signal Battalion 50, Company C, 67th Signal Battalion 39
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 206th Military Intelligence Battalion 60, Headquarters and Headquarters Company 93rd Signal Brigade 32
Company B, 297th Military Intelligence Battalion 69, 31st Intelligence Squadron (USAF) 42

Women Division (Gym 4)

Company C, 369th Signal Battalion 32, Company E, 369th Signal Battalion 17
Blue Division (Gym 5)
Company C, 447th Signal Battalion 40, Company B, 447th Signal Battalion 36
Company E, 369th Signal Battalion 2, Company C, 551st Signal Battalion 0. This was Charlie Company first forfeit. A second forfeit and they will be removed from the league.
Company D, 551st Signal Battalion 48, Company C, 73rd Ordnance Battalion 34
Basic Non Commissioned Of-

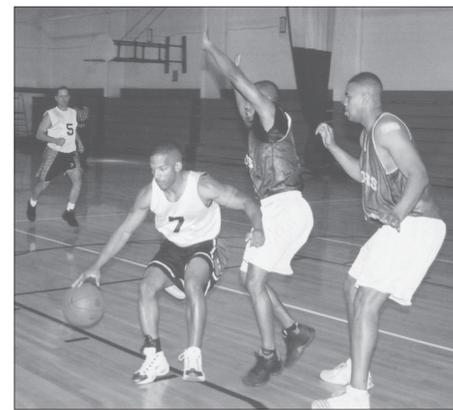
ficer Course 35, Company D, 447th Signal Battalion 22

Morning Division (Gym 5)
Company B, 551st Signal Battalion 50, Company C, 447th Signal Battalion 21
Company C, 369th Signal Battalion 46, Company B, 447th Signal Battalion 41
Company E, 369th Signal Battalion 63, Company D, 369th Signal Battalion 20
Company C, 447th Signal Battalion 34, Company C, 369th Signal Battalion 33

Company C, 73rd Ordnance Battalion 2, Company B, 551st Signal Battalion 0. This was Bravo Company first forfeit, the next forfeit will remove them from the league.
Company D, 447th Signal Battalion 38, Company B, 447th Signal Battalion 35.

The Fort Gordon Unit Level Basketball season resumes play Jan. 6. Coaches in the Women's Division, if you do not have schedule change 3, stop by the sports office.

Likewise, coaches in the Green Division need change 1. For information, call 791-1142.



Ulysses Rayford, RNCOA, dribbles past Ibiere Khalid, 518th Signal Company, 56th Signal Battalion, as Raheim James closes in on defense.

Unit Basketball Standings

Team Won Lost

Blue Division

B-73 6 0
C-447 5 1
D-551 5 2
BNCOC 4 2
C-551 4 2
B-447 4 3
E-369 3 4
B-551 2 5
D-447 2 5
C-442 1 5
C-73 0 7

Green Division

518 8 0
B-297 6 1
ANCOA 5 1
HHC-206 5 1
252 4 1
B-67 3 2
HHC-93 3 4
311S 3 5
B-EAMC 2 4
C-67 2 4
A-67 0 18

STANDINGS AS OF DEC. 16

Morning Division

C-73 6 0
B-551 4 2
C-369 4 2
B-447 3 3
D-447 3 3
C-447 2 3
E-369 2 4
D-369 0 6

Red Division

HHC-201 7 1
HHC-67 6 1
A-442 7 2
NSGA 6 3
USAG 5 3
A-551 4 4
A-369 3 6
249 2 5
A-447 2 5
338TRS 2 6
A-73 0 8

Women's Division

EAMC 11 0
A-442 9 1
GRSOC 8 1
ANCOA 8 3
B-297 8 3
C-369 8 3
E-369 6 4
B-551 5 6
E-447 5 13
73 1 17
D-551 0 18

ADVERTISING SECTION

At EASE

Events - Crossword - Kiddie Corner - Restaurant Review - Classifieds

Citizen Classified Ads

About Our Classifieds

Personal classified ads are available at a special Paid in Advance Rate. To qualify, you must use the form in this publication and mail your ad prior to deadline with payment enclosed. Though we recommend placing your ad on the form provided, we will accept ads by phone at 706-724-2122 or 706-554-2111.

We accept MasterCard and VISA. We ask, however, that you pay promptly to avoid additional costly billings. Large type ads are available for added impact by calling our Swap & Shop advisor at 706-724-2122 or 706-554-2111.

100-199 SERVICES

- Automotive Repairs 100
- Baby-sitters/Child Care 105
- Domestic Services 110
- Financial Services 120
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- Furniture Refinish 135
- Land & Lot Clearing 140
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- Lawn & Garden Care 180
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200-299 NOTICES

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425-455 REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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460-700 ITEMS FOR SALE

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- Golf Equipment 560
- Musical Items 590
- Other Electronics 600
- Pets & Animals 610
- Sporting Goods/Firearms 620
- Stereos/Radios 630
- TVs, VCRs, Videos 640
- Yard & Garage Sales 690
- Miscellaneous For Sale 700

710-790 TRANSPORTATION

- Auto Parts & Accessories 710
- Classic Autos 720
- Automobiles 730
- Trucks, Vans, 4WDs 740
- Motorcycles 750
- Campers and RVs 760
- Boats 770
- Misc. Transportation 790

105 Child Care

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225 COMMUNITY EVENTS

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FAMILY Y HOLDS HOLIDAY CAMPS December 24 and 31, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call 706-738-6678.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF AUGUSTA will be presenting "Twas the Last Mailing Day Before Christmas", December 21, 6:30 p.m. A Christmas musical presented by the combined youth choirs of First Baptist Church. For more information call 706-733-2236.

HELP FOR ABUSED INDIVIDUALS A support group that practices anonymity in helping individuals whose life is affected or has been affected by another individual who is using or have used drugs or alcohol. For more information call 706-860-0302.

VOLLEYBALL CLINICS STARTING IN JANUARY Augusta Juniors will hold Tuesday night clinics January 6 through mid April from 7 to 9 p.m. at Westside Baptist Church in Martinez. For more information call Mrs. Cupp at 803-279-2215 or send an e-mail to augustajuniors@yahoo.com or visit www.eteamz.com/augustajuniors

290 Misc. Notices

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DRIVERS NEEDED Clean MVR, 1-2 years experience. Call Floyd 478-982-9100 or 706-214-0309.

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CROSSWORD

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Exhausts
5. A small island
10. Sandy piece of seashore
14. Ancient Greek City
15. Type of records
16. Hebrew calendar month
17. Irritating advisors
20. Perfumes
21. Anwar ____, Egyptian statesman
22. An awkward stupid person
23. Cologne
25. Cassava with long tuberous edible roots
29. Strokings
33. Belgian city
34. Oklahoma city
35. Opening
36. Slang for good looking
37. Hygienic
40. Server's specialty
41. Chinese Moslem
43. Loon
44. Adult females
47. A way to split up
48. An extremely funny joke
49. Fiddler crabs
50. A member of the prehistoric people who spoke Proto-Indo-European
53. Remaining as is
58. Anne Bancroft film of 1964
61. Ancient stringed instrument
62. A very short time
63. Medium-sized mackerel
64. Egyptian goddess
65. Hindu sacred writings
66. Leave out

CLUES DOWN

1. The compass pt. that is one point east of southeast
2. Expression of sorrow or pity
3. Either of two large muscles of the chest
4. Japanese beverage
5. Induces vomiting
6. Allied H.Q.
7. Mass
8. The point of termination
9. Hill (Celtic)
10. Sofas
11. In a way, looked
12. Ancient Japanese religious center
13. Formerly (archaic)
18. Stuck-up
19. A small island
23. Languages related to Thai
24. City in Algeria
25. The mistress of a household
26. ____, Walker, The Color Purple
27. Nozzles
28. Similar, suffix
29. Legal actions
30. White Italian wine from Verona
31. Strayed
32. Pennsylvania town
38. Develop in the mind
39. Twitching
41. Insurance group
42. Moist
45. Hanging cloth used as a blind
46. Aboriginal race
47. Pictures
49. City on Mohawk river
50. King of Huns (Scandinavian)
51. Cashew genus
52. Large creature of the Himalayas
53. A way to glide
54. Mexican dish
55. An individual unit
56. Filippo ____, Saint
57. Small cavern
59. Rock TV channel
60. Pakistani rupee

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Wrightsboro Road</p> <p>VA Hospital Main Foyer
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Bldg. 250 Chamberlain Avenue</p> <p>Eisenhower Hospital
Bldg. 300 Hospital Road</p> <p>Tingay Dental Clinic
Bldg. 320 East Hospital Road</p> <p>MP Office
Bldg. 29717 B Street</p> <p>Signal Towers - Racks 1st Floor
Bldg. 29808 Chamberlain</p> <p>Signal Towers
Mailroom Basement
Bldg. 29808 Chamberlain Ave.</p> <p>447th Signal Bn HQ
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Bldg. 25605 Barnes Ave.</p> <p>15th Signal Brigade HQ
Bldg. 25710 Barnes Ave.</p> <p>442nd Signal Bn HQ
Bldg. 29809 Barnes Ave.</p> <p>369th Signal Bn HQ
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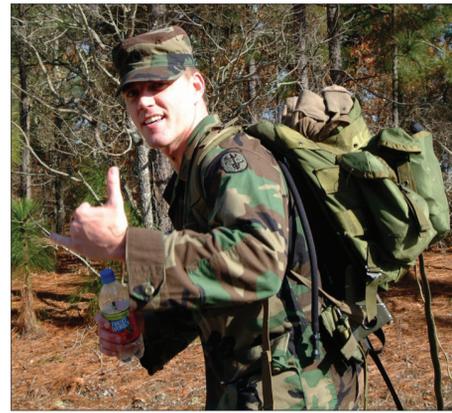
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Spectrum



Photos by Pvt. Armando Monroig

One of the 35 competitors who started testing for the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency soars over the bar in the high jump event. Twelve of the group earned the badge including two gold medalists.



Staff Sgt. Joseph Huitt, U.S. Army Dental Laboratory, rucks part of his 18.7 mile gold medal ruck march. Huitt and 2nd Lt. Nick Miller, Signal Officer Basic Course, were the lone gold medalists.



Huitt soars over the high jump on track and field day.



2nd Lt. Jean Valdez, a silver medalist from SOBC, hurls the shot put.



(Above) Staff Sgt. Erik Hurst, Nuclear Medicine, Eisenhower Army Medical Center, jogs down a hill during the ruck march event.



(Left) German Liaison sergeant major, Sgt. Maj. Hartmut Fiege (left), talks with Capt. Bill Platte, HHC, U.S. Army Garrison commander (right). Platte opened the testing up from his company to the post.



Hurst fires a 92FS Beretta 9mm pistol from the prone position as part of the shooting event.



2nd Lt. Ken Murray, a lifeguard at the Fort Gordon Indoor Pool, competes in his best event.



Lt. Col. Ricky Olson, Nuclear Medicine, EAMC, and Staff Sgt. Anne Newbold, ADL, try to catch their breath after the sprinting events.



Contestants prepare to begin one of the running events.

Sgt. Ryan Matson
Military editor

Friday marked the culmination of countless hours of tireless training for several Soldiers from across post. Thirty five Soldiers began the week-long testing for the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency Dec. 8, an eight-event affair that tested Soldiers in a mixture of athletic, endurance and military categories.

When the dust cleared from Friday's ruck march, 12 people had earned the badge, which is awarded in three different levels—gold, silver, and bronze medal status.

2nd Lt. Nick Miller, Signal Officer Basic Course and Staff Sgt. Joseph Huitt, Army Dental Laboratory, were the week's top finishers, the lone competitors to bring home gold medals.

"I think I may need Monday off!" a hobbling and panting Huitt said to his first ser-

geant as he expended his last bit of energy and ran across the finish line a little over four hours after starting his 18.7 mile gold medal ruck march. Huitt, who had been eliminated from the badge in the shooting category when he tried for it at another post, battled through leg cramps from the nine 9.3 mile mark until the finish. The cramps hampered his finish time, although he still finished well within the five-hour requirement.

The testing was split between 23 competitors from the SOBC and 12 from throughout the post. The other four medallists from SOBC were: 2nd Lt. Jean Valdez (silver), 2nd Lt. Charles Moores (silver), 2nd Lt. Mark McAfee (silver), and 2nd Lt. Mary Murphy (bronze.) Second Lt. Monica Luongo was not able to complete the testing with the rest of her class and will complete it at a later time.

The other medallists from

units throughout the post were: Lt. Col. Ricky Olson, and Staff Sgt. Erik Hurst, both of Company A, Eisenhower Army Medical Center (silver medals), Staff Sgt. Frank Hamard, Company A, 369th Signal Battalion (silver), 2nd Lt. Kenneth Murray, Fort Gordon Indoor Swimming Pool (silver) and Sgt. 1st Class Jay Jackson (silver) and Sgt. Ryan Matson (bronze), both of HHC, U.S. Army Garrison Command.

Several competitors missed one event, mostly the shooting. Under the guidelines of the badge, a competitor may re-test for one failed event anytime within a year of completing the other events. Matson had already earned a silver medal last year, shot bronze and completed the 18.7 mile ruck march with Huitt, but will re-test the shooting for gold, as competitors may go up in status for the badge (to gold), but not down (to bronze).

The first event tested was

the 3K run Dec. 8. The German Liaison sergeant major, Sgt. Maj. Hartmut Fiege, conducted the week's testing. The contestants, ranging in age from 22 to 50 years old, battled through 27 degree temperatures to complete the run.

Most of the competitors were running in age group one, the 18 to 29 year-old bracket, meaning they had to finish the seven and a half laps in less than 13 minutes, roughly equivalent to maxing the run on an Army Physical Fitness Training test. All but one of the Soldiers completed this task.

On Dec. 9, Soldiers tested in the track and field events, which included the 100-meter dash or alternate running events, the shot put, and high jump or long jump. In these events, hosted by Butler High School, six more contestants were lost.

Swimming was tested Dec. 10 at the Fort Gordon indoor pool. In this event, competitors

swam 200 meters in times ranging from less than six minutes to eight and a half minutes.

Olson, who at age 50 had 8 minutes, 30 seconds to complete the swim, led all finishers with a time of 3 minutes, 55 seconds.

A 100-meter sprint-swimming event was held as an alternate for the shot put event, in which swimmers needed to complete the swim in under one minute, 50 seconds for age group one.

Two competitors also elected to swim the 1000-meter event as an alternate to Monday's 3K and 5K running events, and both successfully completed these events in time.

Marksmanship with a 92FS Beretta 9mm was tested at Shooter's Indoor Pistol Range on Washington Road Dec. 11. This event eliminated the most competitors, as 14 of the remaining 26 failed the event.

The ruck march ended the

week's activities. All 12 of the remaining Soldiers toughed out the hilly terrain of Range and North Range Roads and finished the ruck march in their given times.

Capt. Bill Platte, who initiated the training program for this cycle of testers, was happy with the participants results.

"Although every Soldier did not receive a badge, I am very pleased with the participation level and dedication on the part of everyone involved," Platte said.

"I noticed during the testing phase that the Soldiers that thought getting the German Badge was 'easy' realized how tough it is to successfully complete all of the events.

"I want to especially thank Sgt. Maj. Fiege for always allowing Soldiers to test for the badge and most of all his patience during the testing phase," Platte said. "He really makes test week a lot of fun."